



Shoppers walk through the aisles during the grand opening Friday of a new combined Toys "R" Us/Babies "R" Us store on Governors West in Bridge Street Town Centre. (The Huntsville Times/Glenn Baeske)

Us Superstore opens

Bridge Street customers 'R' excited by 58K square feet of Toys/Babies

By **Marian Accardi**
marian.accardi@htimes.com

A 58,000-square-foot Toys "R" Us/Babies "R" Us Superstore opened Friday at Bridge Street Town Centre in Huntsville to eager customers.

It is one of the first two superstores in Alabama combining the two full-size stores. The other store, which also opened Friday, is at The Summit in Birmingham.

"We're excited about opening here," said manager Mike O'Kain. "We've had lots of people anxiously

awaiting this."

Integrating the Toys "R" Us and Babies "R" Us stores in one location has been an initiative for the company for about five years, according to Meghan Kennedy, a spokeswoman with Wayne, N.J.-based Toys "R" Us Inc.

"The company has more than 40 superstores," she said, and 11 superstores are opening this year.

Annette Cassidy and her 10-year-old daughter Stephanie, who live in Toney, came to the store today looking for LEGO sets. "I've been impatiently waiting for the store to open,"

Cassidy said. Maryann Kelley, also from Toney, arrived to the applause and cheers of employees when the store opened at 9:30 a.m. She planned to get some Christmas shopping done with her 2-year-old grandson, Ben.

The opening of the new store leaves vacant the former Huntsville Toys "R" Us and Babies "R" Us stores - located on opposite ends of University Drive - which closed Oct. 2.

"Most of our team members

See **OPENS** on B3